India

FOR THE

No. 132. New Series.]
No. 226. Old Series.]

WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1900.

[Registered as a Newspaper. { Price...... 2d. By Post, 2½d.

Notes and News 13
The Coming Budget Debate 16
Who Should Bear the Cost of the India Office? 17
Our London Letter 18
Notes from Bombay 19
The Famine in India:
Over Six Millions on Relief 20
The Mansion House Fund 20
The *Investors' Review* Fund 20
Proposed Parliamentary Grant ... 20
The Native Stocks of Food 21
The Resolutions of the Lucknow Congress 21
Indian Affairs in Parliament:
Special Report 23
Public Meetings on Indian Questions 23
Advertisements 24

*** *An Index with Title-page to Volume XIII of* India *(January—June,* 1900) *is now ready. A Copy will be forwarded gratis and post free to any Subscriber on application to the Manager.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

Sir William Wedderburn, M.P., Chairman of the Indian Parliamentary Committee, has placed the following motion upon the order-paper of the House of Commons:—

> That, looking to the special needs of the famine-stricken people in India on the approach of the monsoon, this House recognises that funds are urgently required to feed, clothe, and house the cultivators in their villages until their crops are ripe; to provide them with plough cattle, seed, and other requisites of cultivation; and to restore them to their normal economic condition: that these requirements cannot be adequately met from Indian revenues raised from the suffering Indian people, and within the necessarily restricted field of ordinary relief operations; that the funds subscribed by charity are altogether insufficient for these purposes; and this House is therefore of opinion that an Imperial free grant of not less than five millions sterling should be provided to assist in meeting this unprecedented calamity.

No day is yet fixed for the motion, but we understand that a motion to this effect will be submitted in the course of the approaching "debate on the Indian Budget."

Lord George Hamilton has managed to astonish even the *Times of India*. Dealing with his answer to Sir Henry Fowler's question—the answer wherein he declared that any Imperial grant which might be made to India must take the form of a loan—our contemporary says:—

> The answer that it must be in the form of a loan dismisses the idea of a charitable grant of a million or so, which to some of the advocates of a grant in England appeared to be the only form it could take.

But this was not all. Not only did the Secretary of State for India declare that the aid must be by loan, but he put the matter "on an altogether unexpected footing" when he mentioned that the Indian Government had not yet touched their borrowing powers in England. These borrowing powers, which now stand at nine million pounds sterling,

> are the usual statutory powers conferred by Parliament upon the Secretary of State for railway and public works purposes. It would be strange if after having repeatedly announced the readiness of the Home Government to come to the assistance of India, if necessary, this "assistance" should take shape in such an exercise of normal statutory powers as the Secretary of State intimated his intention of resorting to next month.

But the *Times of India* suggests that Lord George Hamilton's reply does not cover "the whole field of ministerial intention."

The *Times of India* thinks the rumour that the Bombay Government has issued an order that every rupee of revenue is to be collected in the famine-stricken districts does the administration a serious injustice. In Poona it is said that only seven lakhs have been collected out of thirteen, and there is no reason why Poona should be specially favoured. But whether the rumour is unjust or not, it is certainly very natural in view of some further remarks of our contemporary:—

> The policy of the Bombay Government—which is, at all events in theory, imposed upon them by the principles of their land system—is not favourable even to large suspensions of the revenue demand in times of scarcity. *A fortiori*, remissions are counted among the deadly sins of administration. It was their pride to have gone through the famine of 1896-97 with a suspension of under eight lakhs out of a demand of 173 lakhs for the affected districts, while the remissions of the year in these regions came to the infinitesimal sum of fifteen thousand rupees.

In Bijapur, where the crops wholly failed, there were no remissions and only a fifth of the demand was suspended. The Bombay Government can hardly complain if it is expected that the course of which they were so proud will be repeated.

Meanwhile the *Times of India* exhorts the Government of Bombay to learn from the example of the North-West Provinces. There, after the famine of 1896-97, the Government granted suspensions amounting to a crore of rupees out of the Autumn demands and 44 lakhs out of the Spring demands; while of these amounts 60 lakhs were subsequently converted into remissions. The Famine Commission of 1898 remarked upon this:—

> There can be no doubt that these very liberal measures of relief must have greatly mitigated distress, particularly among the smaller landowners and tenants.

Moreover villages in which the *Kans* weed had spread were re-assessed by a special officer. Well may our contemporary ask, "Is not the action of the North-Western Provinces administration one that can profitably be studied in Bombay?"

The weakness of the monsoon is very distressing. The Viceroy's telegram is suggestive of gloomy anticipations. Though rain is reported as fairly general during the past week in Bombay, the Dekkhan, Berar, Khandesh, the Central Provinces, the Gangetic Plain, and the Punjab yet the Southern Dekkhan is the only district where it has been above average strength. At the same time there has been little or no rainfall in Rajputana, Gujerat, and Central India. Not one of all these wide stretches of territory but suffers painfully from the inefficiency of the monsoon: "agricultural operations," says the Viceroy, are "seriously impeded everywhere." It naturally follows that "distress and famine expenditure are prolonged beyond expectation." In Rajputana, Gujerat, and Central India, where the cattle have been swept away in mass, and the cattle provided in anticipation of the rains are dying like the rest, hope deferred is making the heart of the people sick. At an early period of the famine we heard of lawless proceedings in these parts, and, though there is no official notice taken of any such outbursts, it is not very easy to believe that they have not been repeated or continued. Last week the total numbers on relief went over six millions—6,013,000—a sharp revulsion from the week before, which showed a distinct decrease. The most notable increases have taken place in Bombay, the Central Provinces, Ajmere-Merwara, Rajputana States, Bombay Native States, Central Provinces Feudatory States, and even in Haiderabad and Madras. The telegram from the Governor of Bombay only emphasises the frightful significance of the Viceroy's telegram.

The progress of cholera is painfully marked. The Viceroy characterises the cholera mortality in the Bombay Presidency during May as "appalling." Now the Governor of Bombay reports for the week ending June 30 no less than 10,320 cases of cholera in the famine districts—presumably of Bombay alone—of which 6,502, or much more than one half, proved fatal. At the same time he assigns 9,700 cholera cases to Native States—presumably in Bombay—of which 5,931, or, again, much more than one half, proved fatal. It is not easy for us to picture the dismay that such terrible ravages of such a dreaded visitor must be causing throughout the country. This scourge according to the correspondent of the *Times* at Simla (July 10), has broken out "in a severe epidemic form" at Kohat, "where all the units of the Native garrison have been attacked." Not a word do the reports

contain about small-pox and other minor sequels of the famine; not a word about the disastrous persistence of the plague. There is no use, apparently, in prodding at the India Office, or in insisting on the sense of calamity that visibly flashes between the lines of the Viceroy's statistical report. But it would be very obvious wisdom to pour out money like water—a hearty National Grant in sympathy—in order to retrieve in some degree, even at the eleventh hour, the hopelessness of the situation.

The *Bombay Gazette* states that "no less than twenty-three projects" of railway extension have been taken in hand since the commencement of the famine, and much work has been done in connexion with the preparation of these, on "famine-relief principles." There has not been, so far as we have observed, any allegation that the work of relief has suffered for want of railway communication to and in the affected districts. But "the want of rolling stock," the *Gazette* says, "has been a source of difficulty from the beginning, and Government have said it has been a serious disability in the administration of famine relief." This is an ugly charge, and we should like to hear particulars of the alleged "disability." A heavy grain traffic was, or ought to have been, clearly foreseen, and it is rather late in the day to be told that the railway companies have now got the length of "considering the question of providing additional rolling stock." Really, this sort of futility does seem incredible.

In connexion with this strange railway business, the *Bombay Gazette* brings a curious indictment against the Rajputana pigeons, which also has a picturesque aspect:

> This disadvantage (of insufficient rolling stock) has been specially acute in Rajputana, where it would be difficult to imagine the loss of grain caused by pigeons without actually seeing the condition of stations and grain trains. Station roofs were concealed under pigeons, and the bags on grain trucks invisible on account of them. They followed grain trains as gulls follow a ship. On one occasion nine maunds of grain were found missing from one truck in a single journey, and the condition of the bags left no doubt as to who were the thieves. It is not difficult to estimate the scores of tons of grain which have run to waste from this cause during the present famine or the number of starving people who might have been fed with the quantity lost. Probably not less than 10,000 people could have been maintained for six months from what is sacrificed to religious sentiment.

In the first place the cause is the want of rolling stock—although apparently it was in fact the want of *proper* rolling stock, or tarpaulins, or other effective protection to the cargo. At the end of the narrative, the cause is given as "religious sentiment"—which presumably forbade the slaughter of the swarms of pigeons. Anyhow, there seems to be matter here that requires official explanation.

The *Hindu* has an interesting article on "The Ruin of the Madras Rayat." It points out that Sir Thomas Munro, who introduced the present land system of Southern India, laid down three principles, to the infraction of which our contemporary attributes much of the suffering of the Madras peasantry. These principles were (1) To take into account, in revising rents, previous *collections* as well as present prices and estimates; (2) To allow the villages of a District an opportunity of examining the demand on each, so that the final demand on each might be the result of an agreement among all the villages; (3) To allow a low rent for a few years to impoverished rayats, so that they might be able to recover themselves and in the end pay the full Government demand. None of these principles are now followed, though the circumstances of the country demand it more than ever, for since Sir Thomas Munro's time there has been a terrible drain on India in consequence of the large annual remittances to Europe without economic return, while the competition of European manufactures has driven the people of India more and more to the land as their sole means of livelihood.

The following catechism, which is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, puts in a concise form the expensiveness of government in India, so disproportionate to her resources:

> Q.—What country in the world pays its servants most highly?
> A.—India.
> Q.—In what country is the pension given to its servants on a more generous scale than in any other?
> A.—In India.
> Q.—Where are the leave rules most generous?
> A.—India.
> Q.—Which is the poorest country in the world?
> A.—India.

Sir William Wedderburn has issued invitations for a breakfast party at Westminster Palace Hotel on Wednesday next "to meet Mr. Vaughan Nash, Special Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, on his return from the famine districts in India." Among those who have accepted invitations are Lord Aberdeen, Lord Kinnaird, Lord Welby, Mr. C. P. Scott, M.P., Mr. F. A. Channing, M.P., Mr. J. Caldwell, M.P., Sir Charles Dilke, M.P., Dr. Farquharson, M.P., Mr. G. Harwood M.P., Mr. C. H. Hemphill, M.P., Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., Mr. D. Lloyd George, M.P., Mr. J. G. Swift MacNeill, M.P., Mr. J. Herbert Roberts, M.P., Mr. H. J. Wilson, M.P., Sir George Birdwood, Mr. H. M. Birdwood, Professor A. F. Murison, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, Mr. A. J. Wilson, Mr. Harold Spender, and Mr. H. W. Massingham.

In the course of a few days Messrs. Kegan Paul will publish for Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, C.I.E., an important volume under the title of "Open Letters to Lord Curzon on Famine and Land Assessments in India." Some of these letters have already been referred to in our columns. The volume, which consists of 324 pages, also contains many interesting appendices upon Indian economics and finance. The publication is well-timed and should be of great service in view of the approaching debate in the House of Commons. It is sometimes said by the opponents of Indian reform that Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji and Mr. Dutt are not in agreement as to the main causes of poverty in India. This volume should make the misstatement impossible for the future. Men who hold opinions in common and are working for a common end do well to parcel out the chief sections of a large subject. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has dwelt specially upon the inevitable results of the "economic drain" from India. Mr. Romesh Dutt, entirely agreeing with his contentions, dwells specially upon the results of over-taxation in India. While Mr. Naoroji deals mainly with the way in which the Indian revenues are spent, Mr. Dutt deals mainly with the way in which the revenues are raised. The work of each supplements the work of the other.

Sir John Scott read an excellent paper (May 24) before the Indian Section of the Society of Arts, drawing out an instructive comparison between "English and Anglo-Indian Criminal Procedure"—"an awfully tough job for a busy man" to tackle, as an ex-Chief-Justice said. The broadest difference is on the point of codification; and Sir John indicated his preference for codification, which the subsequent discussion did nothing to shake. Coming to practical points, Sir John dealt briefly, but pointedly, with the union of judicial and executive functions in the Indian District Magistrate. He admitted the force of the two main objections urged against separation: "financial, because of the increase of the judicial staff that would be required; political, because of the loss of prestige which would ensue to the executive so essential to good administration in a backward country." "Moreover," he added, "it is urged, with reason, that the Collector, who is the District Magistrate, knows the people, and is able to act with great rapidity in important cases, whilst he does not attach undue importance to small offences." Admitting all that, however, "I submit," he concludes, "such a separation, as far as it is possible, is an essential to all good government."

The championship of the objections to separation was taken up by Sir W. Lee-Warner, who thought it "expedient to reduce the controversy to its proper proportions." He admits "the victory of the separatists has long since been won," and that "the broad principle of a thorough separation" is "sound and well recognised"; but he draws a distinction. The separatists "condemned the union of the functions of Judge and Collector, but now the Judicial and the Executive are distinct in the whole domain of civil jurisdiction. Again, in the matter of criminal powers, such changes have been made that no officer who sets the police in motion should ever take the smallest part in the trial of the accused." As "no Col-

lector-Magistrate ever need, or I believe does, try a case in which he is interested—which is more than can be said of our landlord Justices of the Peace in England"—why, then, "the entire separation of functions, which some advocate, affects a very small fraction of semi-magisterial functions"; and "it does not raise a practical question of reform." Sir W. Lee-Warner does not meet the point. The English landlord J.P.'s may drop out of the argument: two blacks do not make one white. Again, it is not a question of what a magistrate need or need not do; the question is whether he does or does not try a case in person, or interfere with his subordinate's action on the trial. Sir W. Lee-Warner has seen the Chupra case, but has not digested the moral of it. It is not enough to say that "scandals, of course, occur now and again in India, as in England, but they are exceptions to prove the rule." The rule itself has to be proved, not to be taken for granted. The "scandals" are the quite too extravagant cases; who knows how many other cases, oppressive if not "scandalous," occur throughout India, though the British public never hear of them? The separation must be thoroughgoing. And the real obstacle—the financial one—has been practically obviated by Mr. Romesh Dutt's proposals.

The Jury question also came into debate. We do not think it is worth while to follow the details, but it may be noted that Mr. T. Durant Beighton, claimed a right to an opinion on the ground that he believed he had "conducted more trials by jury than any one else that ever lived in Bengal." We are little concerned with Mr. Beighton's opinions, but it may be well to place on record his account of the origin of Sir Charles Elliott's attempt to suppress trial by Jury in Bengal. He said:—

> I need not say that I have at various times, in common with many others, used all the influence I possessed in reports to Government and to the High Court, as well as in the public Press, to denounce the evils of the system. In 1889 I published an exhaustive examination of the history of trial by jury in India with a fairly complete analysis of the results. This article was much discussed and excited a good deal of interest in the subject. In the year 1893 action was at last taken by the Government, and Sir Charles Elliott, who was then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in the exercise of his powers . . . . issued a notification directing that trial by jury should be abolished in the seven districts of Bengal, in which it had been in force for the trial of murder and culpable homicide cases. The notification further provided for the first time for the trial of offences against marriage by jury—a recommendation which I have made in my review of the jury system for reasons into which I cannot now enter. I think Sir Charles Elliott would now be the first to admit that his action was a mistake.

Why a mistake? Because it was done at a stroke and not "piecemeal and by degrees." Mr. Beighton says it "gave a great shock to that section of Native public opinion which is the noisest and therefore the most influential." He believes "there never was an agitation which was more hollow and fictitious, or which was less representative of true Native opinion." For "the entire Native Press was in fact controlled by the small body of educated Native barristers and pleaders in Calcutta, who pose as the champions of reform," and so forth. Was there ever any important agitation that was not similarly characterised? Is not the same ridiculous view of Native opinion always put forward? Who but educated Natives, in any case, could be expected to voice the opinions of the people? But it is superfluous to break a butterfly on the wheel.

A painful and scandalous story of oppression is related by the *Power and Guardian* (June 20). The European manager of a tea garden was charged before the subdivisional magistrate of Karimgunj in Assam, with committing an unprovoked assault upon a coolie, named Dukdahan. Dukdahan, together with his family—none of whom were under any contract to stay—wanted to leave the garden, and accordingly intimated his intention to the Jamadar and a Chowkidar of the garden. Both of these worthies demanded a consideration for recommending Dukdahan to the manager, but Dukdahan refused to bribe them, and went straight to the manager himself. Then, according to the *Power and Guardian*,

> The manager called the Jamadar and the Chowkidar, and asked them to hold each one of Dukdahan's hands. When this was done, the manager belaboured the unfortunate wretch with a cane. When this was done, Dukdahan was allowed to go to his quarters. On returning, he packed up his effects, and while he was doing this the Jamadar and the Chowkidar forcibly took away from him Rs. 100 in cash and Rs. 40 in jewellery.

Dukdahan had two eye-witnesses to speak for him. The magistrate considered the manager's statement most unsatisfactory, and the evidence of other witnesses for the defence as "absolutely valueless." The manager was fined Rs. 50 for the assault. There is no report of what happened to the Jamadar and the Chowkidar. But such cases—and there have been far too many of them—cast a grave reflection upon tea-gardens management, and one cannot but think that a more deterrent penalty ought to be inflicted.

The question of prisoners' confessions has become so serious that, as we learn from the *Times of India*, the judges of the Bombay High Court have thought it necessary to issue a circular enjoining the greatest care and caution on magistrates who may have to record the confessions of prisoners. But our contemporary thinks the precautions suggested, which are only such as all conscientious magistrates use, are quite insufficient to extirpate the evil. For instance, these precautions do little to prevent confessions under pressure of the worst kind by the police, because some tortures inflict no mark, and the threat of punishment is often as potent as the reality. The *Times of India* believes that if left to themselves, average Indian criminals would never confess, and that all confessions are due to illegal pressure by the police. Confessions made by prisoners when in the power of the tormentors and retracted immediately they are out of their clutches have long been the scandal of criminal administration in India.

The *Times of India* has its own plan for putting a stop to the abuse. It suggests that the prisoner on being brought up for trial should be allowed to make his own plea. If he pleads Not Guilty, then all previous confessions should be held as cancelled, and the prosecution should be expected to prove the case in the ordinary way. Of course it is much easier for judge and police to rest the case on a retracted confession, and if the prisoner cannot prove that it was extorted, convict him on that—much easier, but dangerous in the highest degree. And not merely does the prisoner suffer, but the community also, owing to the indolence and inefficiency which grows upon the police when they come to depend so much on prisoners' confessions. One very black sign of the true nature of these so-called confessions is that they are much more common in difficult than in easy cases. The prisoner, it appears, does not own to his crimes because he has no case, but because the prosecution has none, or only a weak one. To suppose such confessions really free is surely to be ignorant of human nature.

A correspondent of the *Englishman* reports that the extension of service granted to Sir Antony MacDonnell has much displeased the "seniors," who thus find their promotion deferred for one year. It is even said that they talk of resigning. But, as the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* points out, the Services exist for the people and not the people for the Services; or at least it should be so. It would be a scandal if a tried and proved administrator like Sir A. MacDonnell were sacrificed to rules of official promotion, and if a Lieutenant-Governor loved and honoured by millions were to be sacrificed to official clamours. Officials popular with the ruled and trusted by the rulers are not so easy to find that we can afford to lose one of them in deference to rules of promotion or retirement.

The *Madras Mail* publishes a letter over the signature "R. Ragoonath Row," which well deserves attention. The writer agrees that village sanitation in India still leaves much to be desired, and that Government can do little till the standard of sanitation is raised in the minds of the people, but he affirms that what is wanted is some body which can act "without striking terror." He suggests that the highest taxpayer in the village should be appointed honorary sanitary officer and that four other residents should be made his assistants, and that this semi-private body should work in general by "the legitimate exercise of their influence over their fellows," only calling in the magistrate in extreme cases. Whenever "bodies" are empowered to punish people terror is generated, and all their proceedings, however harmless or useful, are apt to be viewed with suspicion.

THE COMING BUDGET DEBATE.

MR. BALFOUR has promised that the date of the discussion of the Indian Budget this year shall be "considerably advanced," and therefore it cannot now be very far off. The frightful calamities of the past twelve months, which have beaten down India with a force beyond recorded parallel, may fairly be expected to awaken in members of the House a keener interest than the Budget usually evokes. There should also be not a little curiosity to see how the Government will reconcile the cheerful telegraphic summary of the Viceroy with the subsequent course of events and the fuller facts that have been ascertained since then. On March 30 (INDIA, Vol. XIII, p. 149) we remarked on the responsive note of cheerfulness in the home Press, and counselled our readers to suspend judgment. The *Times*, we noted, discerned in the Viceroy's report "a remarkable and most gratifying elasticity"—"growing prosperity of the country." The *Standard*, recalling Lord George Hamilton's optimistic phraseology, found in it evidence of the "marvellous recuperative power of the vast dependency." Even the *Daily News* actually declared it a "remarkable tribute to the elastic resources of the country and to the skill with which they are administered." The British Press, with a very few exceptions, allowed itself to be misled through incautious trustfulness, deliberate flunkeyism, or blank ignorance. But the Anglo-Indian supporters of the Government knew better. The semi-official *Pioneer* (INDIA, Vol. XIII, p. 236) blurted out the bitter truth in these terms:—

> The *Times* in its criticisms of the Indian Budget has hit upon the one comment which is absolutely wide of the mark. Whatever the figures of the revised estimates for the current year and the estimates for the coming year may be taken to show, they cannot with any propriety of language be held to prove "elasticity" in the Indian revenues. . . . To speak in these circumstances of the salient feature of the Financial Statement being its exhibition of the "elasticity" of the Indian revenues is very like nonsense. . . . The *Times'* comment can only serve to mislead English readers.

That no doubt is just what the *Times* comment did serve to do, and the other papers supported it in the mischievous task. Again, it was only last week that we were able to quote the special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* and of the two great Anglo-Indian papers the *Times of India* and the *Englishman*, who wrote from Jodhpur (May 31) as follows:—

> It was an evil day for India when some Secretariat official, whose purview was limited to revenue returns and balance sheets, invented those most misleading phrases, "the marvellous recuperative power of the Indian people," "the gratifying elasticity of the Indian revenues." The cry has been taken up by every machine politician from Land's End to John o'Groat's, until the impression is general in Great Britain that it needs only a single good year to bring prosperity and contentment to famine-stricken India, and wipe out the influence of widespread crop failure. . . . At least a generation will elapse before its baneful influence is eradicated.

We trust, therefore, that members will insist on finding out the truth of the matter, so that the people of this country may be no longer misled by opinions that are, on excellent Anglo-Indian authority, "very like nonsense."

We have more than once reminded our readers of the real significance of a surplus or a deficit, and of the imperative necessity of interpreting the figures in the light of the actual condition of the country. We again invite them to ponder the "principal revenue heads," and consider the meaning of the notable variations under land revenue and opium, as well as under salt, stamps, excise, customs, and "other heads." In the Budget Estimate for 1899-1900—which turned out to be a most unfortunate year, with no rainfall and the most terrible of recorded famines—the land revenue was placed higher than the actual income of the preceding year, which was a year of normal rainfall and normal agricultural prosperity. The revised estimate showed a reduction of £1,187,100—say a million and a quarter—under stress of impossible collections and inevitable remissions. Yet in the face of a situation palpably growing worse and worse, the Finance Minister fixed the land revenue estimate at £837,900 higher than the preceding revised estimate, ostensibly on the sanguine ground that "it is hoped that famine will have disappeared by the end of next September." These feats of high finance invite explanation; and it would not be surprising if some outspoken member were to suggest the real ground of the last-quoted figure, which is very different from the ostensible ground. Opium, again, is made to show a continuous advance—£401,300 in the revised estimates of 1899-1900, and then £156,000 in the Budget estimate. Yet this is but another sanguine expectation in the face of depressing facts. The Finance Minister himself admits that the course of prices is "very difficult to forecast"; and besides he had, or ought to have had, ringing in his ears the warning of the Director-General of Statistics that this source of revenue "is doomed to eventual extinction." In the two years under immediate review, salt is marked first £41,000 to the good, then £34,000 to the bad; stamps, first £33,000 down, then £35,700 up; excise, first £8,400 better, then £41,300 worse; customs, first £51,200 of a rise, then £19,100 of a fall; "other heads," first £100,600 of a loss, then £59,300 of a gain. There is no attempt to vouchsafe anything that can be called an explanation of these striking variations; but perhaps Lord George Hamilton will be able to supply a clue to what seem to be haphazard collocations of figures plausibly arranged with the final object of bringing out a nominal surplus. On the quasi-commercial heads, the main source of increase is the railways, whose traffic has been developed by the gruesome needs of the calamity of famine—an increase of £1,590,900 in the two years. On the expenditure side, the cutting down in nearly all the departments is sufficiently noteworthy. We hope that this artificial array of figures will be subjected to a persistent and searching criticism, so that the ridiculous and cruel boast of "prosperity" and "elasticity" may be finally exploded.

It is hopeless now to attempt to shake the gold currency fetish, but at any rate it will be most necessary to insist upon full explanation of the working of the artificial and oppressive system. The abolition of the complications of Exchange and Rx. has been heralded as an immense relief, though it is not easy to imagine that they ever put a serious strain upon the official or the public nervous system. We should like to have a clear statement from Lord George Hamilton showing where he imagines the troublesome element of Exchange has gone. There are some of us who fancy that the charges which used to bulk so large under the head of Exchange still remain operative after Exchange is no more—operative with no less oppressiveness that they are concealed from the uninstructed eye under the comprehensive symbol £. The public would be none the worse for knowing exactly what is the practical significance of the formal transformation of Rx. + Exchange into £. Another point that needs some light thrown upon it is the mysterious prestidigitation that has been exercised upon the so-called Famine Insurance Fund. We do not mean that there is any immediate necessity to rake up the discreditable history of the management of the Fund. But, we are told, the heading "Reduction of Debt," under which it has hitherto been the practice to show the unappropriated balance of the Fund, "has puzzled people"—as so many of the Indian financial expedients and forms have puzzled people—"who ask how there can be a reduction of debt in a year when fresh loans are raised, or in which no debt is discharged;" and the Government hopes "to clear up the difficulty by altering this heading to that of Reduction or Avoidance of Debt." Even in such a ridiculously exiguous matter one is glad to acknowledge the anxiety of the Government to enable people "to grasp more readily what is actually happening in a normal year." But what we should like to get at is the kernel of the business. Lord George Hamilton should be invited to amplify and explain Mr. Dawkins's explanation, and to meet the arguments advanced by the *Statesman* and the *Pioneer* (INDIA, Vol. XIII, p. 236) to show the incorrectness, nay the absurdity, of the theory—and therefore of the policy—of the Government of India. What says the friendly *Statesman*? This:—

> Not only is it not correct, it is absurd, to contend that money which has been spent is a fund in being because otherwise an equivalent amount of additional debt would have been incurred; and a policy which rests on such a theory must be largely fallacious.

And what says the friendly *Pioneer*? This:—

> The utility of maintaining a misnamed Famine Grant to serve the purposes of a sort of spurious Sinking Fund is extremely doubtful. The whole thing is apt to become a juggle with which the Government of India delude themselves and the public.

It is for the House to take care that this juggle be exposed, so that the Government of India may be saved from deluding themselves and the public.

Again, it will be desirable to give the Secretary for India an opportunity of explaining why the boasted surpluses have not been applied in remission of taxation,

and also how those surpluses could ever have been engineered without the aid of taxation that remained after the express grounds of its imposition were removed. It is years and years since the Government promised remission of this special taxation: (1) the enhanced salt duty, yielding over 1½ crores; (2) the income-tax, yielding nearly 1 crore; and (3) the import duties on cotton goods and other articles, yielding 3 crores. "So that," wrote an Indian correspondent from Bombay on March 16 last (INDIA, Vol. XIII, p. 164), "there are 4½ crores of taxation which was levied between 1886 and 1893-94, on the declared pretext of 'low exchange,' and on the express promise, made in the Council Chamber, that it would be withdrawn when the finances permitted." The Exchange has disappeared, "low" and high, yet this taxation, imposed expressly to meet it, still remains. Further, there can be no evading of the question of land assessments, which was pressed on the Government so strongly by the Native members of the Viceroy's Council—by Mr. B. K. Bose, Mr. Ananda Charlu, the Mahárájá of Darbhanga, and Mr. P. M. Mehta—and which has been brought into special prominence by Mr. Romesh Dutt's Presidential Address and his subsequent correspondence with the Viceroy. In the Budget debate Mr. Ibbotson, acknowledging the justness of Mr. Mehta's contention in laying "great stress upon the very important question of elasticity in the assessment and collection of revenue," said: "I believe there is hardly any question which has a more intimate bearing upon the prosperity of agriculture in India; and I can assure him that it has not been overlooked by the Government of India." Well, the question has been before the Government for some years past as "one of the branches of the great subject of Agricultural Indebtedness," and one would like to know the results of the prolonged incubation. Moreover, the despatch of Indian troops to South Africa, Ceylon, Singapore, and China, will form a ready ground for the discussion of the apportionment of charge between India and Britain, in the light of the Majority and Minority Reports of the Indian Expenditure Commission. Meantime, the urgent necessity of two things is clearly manifest: first, of a liberal Parliamentary grant in aid of the Famine Relief Funds; and second, of a searching enquiry into the fundamental causes of famine, with a view to practical prevention of another such calamity.

WHO SHOULD BEAR THE COST OF THE INDIA OFFICE?

THE Reports of the Royal Commission on the Expenditure of India have already been carefully analysed in these columns, and while the Report of the Minority has received unstinted praise, there has been no inclination to belittle that of the Majority. Though it might fail to probe the causes of India's poverty, though it might limit itself to a review of the financial situation which seemed almost trivial, its importance was never denied, for it showed how much had still to be done to render ordinary financial justice to India, even in the opinion of men with a strong official bias. If we consider the names of those who signed the Majority Report, we see at once that it represents the views of men who could never be accused of any undue zeal in the work of reformation; and this must always give it, when it recommends reform, an undeniable importance. As has been said above, the main features of the Report have already been dealt with; and if we now, even at the risk of going over the same ground anew, deal with a particular section of the Report, it is because it seems to deserve a more special consideration than has yet been given to it. The section to which reference is here made is the third, that dealing with apportionment, and of this we take only one of the items under the heading of Civil and Miscellaneous Charges, for the apportionment of Military and Naval Charges requires treatment by itself. Futher the apportionment of the charges is here treated only as a question of business. It is true that this is never a complete or a satisfactory treatment when the two parties to the charge occupy such different positions, England so rich and India so poor, England dominant and able to impose her will, India thankful if her masters will consent even to hear her prayers. But if, even when looked at from the point of view of business, it is found that the charges are unfair, then most certainly they cannot be fair to the weaker party from any other point of view, and therefore the recommendations of the Report under this head may be taken as the minimum of India's just demands.

Of the charges that come under consideration in this part of the Report by far the most important is that of the India Office, which falls entirely on the Indian treasury. The Report begins very fairly by adverting to the very different arrangement which holds good with respect to the Colonies. This arrangement is thus explained:—

> The United Kingdom pays the whole cost of the committee of its own Government which represent it in relation to the Colonies.
>
> The Colony pays the whole cost of agencies established here for the transaction of business.

In the opinion of the Commissioners, if the expenses of the India Office were divided on the same principle the cost of its Parliamentary representatives with an adequate staff would be borne by the United Kingdom, and the rest of the establishment would be paid by India. The question might indeed be approached from another point of view. The staff at the India Office required to perform duties similar to those of the Colonial agents might be paid by India, and the rest of the establishment by the United Kingdom; but it is unnecessary to discuss this, though it is obvious that of the two methods of estimating India's share the latter is the more favourable to her.

Having thus posed this great argument by analogy for the sharing of the expenses of the India Office, the Commissioners proceed to state the other side of the question. They say:

> There is, however, a difference between the two cases. The East India Company paid the whole charge of its establishment in England, including that of the Board of Control. The Crown, in taking over the Government of India, took it over on existing conditions, and the present arrangement is sanctioned by tradition and long practice. Tradition and long practice have established another arrangement in the Colonies. A contribution has never been asked from them, and the great self-governing Colonies throw so little work on the Colonial Office that their share of the charge of that office would be infinitesimal.

Was ever so much false reasoning condensed into such a short space? Because the Government of this country allowed India to be ruled by a chartered Company, formed in the first instance for purposes of trade, therefore the arrangements made with that Company must necessarily continue to govern the relations of England and India. To those arrangements the people of India were never a party. And if they were unjust, their long continuance only makes the injustice the heavier. Nor is the argument more convincing when the case of the Colonies is considered. "Tradition and long practice have established another arrangement in the Colonies." But this arrangement must have had a beginning. The West Indies are now poor, it is true, though not so poor as India, but they were once rich. Why were they not then asked to contribute to the expenses of the officials at home? Obviously, the Indian method arose through the peculiar relations of the Company and the Government, and should have perished with the extinction of the former.

But if a comparison with the West Indies gives no support to the present arrangement, still less does one with "the great self-governing Colonies." We are, indeed, told that it would be unfair to ask them to contribute to the Colonial Office, because they give so little trouble. The Cape Colony and Natal are generally counted among the great self-governing colonies, but it is, indeed, surprising to hear that they "throw so little work" on the Colonial Office. Or is it proposed that in future they shall make a contribution? And yet at bottom there is one important distinction between these Colonies and India, though it is one to which the Commissioners can hardly advert. It is because these Colonies are self-governing that it is impossible to demand any contribution from them. Were India self-governing the present arrangement could not last for a day. The Commissioners go on to say, still speaking of the great self-governing Colonies: "Although, therefore, in theory they might fairly be asked to contribute, it would not be worth while to raise the question with them for so small a result." As the result would most certainly be *nil*, it undoubtedly would not be worth while; but if the Commissioners thought it necessary to touch the question at all, surely in fairness they should have referred not merely to the smallness of the demand, but to a still more powerful

reason, the certainty that, large or small, it would not be granted.

It is, however, only fair to the Commissioners to say that, though they think it right to set forth at full length the reasoning which we quoted above, and though they give it much more weight than it appears to deserve, they nevertheless remain themselves unconvinced by it. On the contrary, they decide that the Colonial analogy is decisive in favour of the British Exchequer bearing a part of the expenses of the India Office. They say:—

It is, however, a fact that the Colonies do not contribute to the charge of the Colonial Office, and in order that there may be no ground for allegation that India is treated less favourably than other parts of her Majesty's Empire, we recommend that Parliament should be asked to make a contribution towards the charge of the India Office.

Thus we see that in the opinion of the Commissioners it is dangerous, or at least improper, to leave any ground for allegation that India is worse treated than other parts of the Queen's dominions. This is a judgment of very wide application, which may be of use in many questions not exclusively financial.

The Commissioners then proceed to consider in what ratio the division of expenses should take place, and this is their conclusion:—

These home charges amounted, in the years 1897-8, to £240,000. The larger part, however, of this sum represented costs of ordinary Indian administration. The vote for the Colonial Office, including non-effective allowances, amounts to about £50,000 a year; and a like amount would be, we think, a fair contribution towards the cost of the India Office.

It would have been more convenient and perhaps more convincing if the Commissioners had embodied in their final Report a summary of the evidence on which they grounded their opinion that more than three-quarters of the expenses of the India Office "represented costs of ordinary Indian administration"; but, to leave that point on one side, it is at least satisfactory to note that they recommend a reduction in the burden laid on India even though it be only to the extent of £50,000 per annum. This, in view of the materials of which the Commission was composed, must be looked on henceforth as the very smallest reduction which has any claim to be fair to India. For over a generation that country has been paying a sum which, judged by the standard of our Colonial administration, is grossly inequitable. A Commission composed largely of men of official experience, and therefore inclined to support existing institutions and arrangements, has declared in favour of a reduction and made this the subject of a formal recommendation. Surely, then, there should be no hesitation in carrying this recommendation into effect.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

MORE than a month has passed since the curtain fell on the stage at Pekin. Not since June 12 has Europe been in communication with its representatives in the Manchu capital, now the hostages of a semi-barbarous mob. What has happened in the interval? Many wild guesses have been made to reach the truth—some obviously inspired by fear, others the manifest offspring of hope. A few days ago the air was heavy with rumours of slaughter. Ministers spoke with bated breath of the dire possibilities of the situation, and while refusing to give open credence to the sensational reports from Shanghai were careful to utter no positive word of contradiction. Suddenly, the clouds were pierced by a ray of sunshine. Shanghai began to send out more hopeful reports. Two of the Legations, we were told, were in existence a few days ago, and the European residents were holding their own. Then came the encouraging statement that Prince Ching, formerly the head of the Tsung-li-Yamen, was actually defending the Legations and opposing by armed force the pretensions of his political rival, Prince Tuan.

Happily, there appears to be ground for accepting this report as more accurate than the appalling stories by which it was preceded. Writing on May 28 in a despatch received in London last Monday, and quoted by Mr. Brodrick in the House of Commons on Tuesday, Sir Claude MacDonald described an interview which he had just had with Prince Ching, in the course of which that statesman promised in the event of a rising to defend the Legations. It is still permissible therefore to speak of the armed invasion for which Japan and the other Powers are making preparations as an expedition not of revenge but of relief. Why the effort should have been so long delayed is one of the mysteries of the situation. Many enquiries have been addressed to Ministers on the subject, but so far with no substantial result.

One curious effect of the Chinese imbroglio has been the eclipse of our own particular war. Not only has South Africa vanished from the emotional mirror of the newspaper poster, but in the newspapers themselves one has to search the recesses of the news columns for an account of Lord Roberts's daily progress. A member of the Irish party had the temerity the other day to ask Mr. Balfour whether, in view of the threatening aspect of affairs in the Far East, the Government would not now reconsider the expediency of coming to terms with the Boers. "Her Majesty's Government," proudly replied the leader of the House, "do not propose to allow any external event to influence their policy in South Africa." This superficial boast evoked loud cheers from the Ministerialists. They had probably forgotten the recent appeal said to have been made by Her Majesty's Government to Lord Roberts to permit a diversion of part of his force for service in China. Lord Roberts, it is true, refuses for the present to sanction the slightest reduction of his vast army, but "external events" may prove irresistible. It is quite certain that when the eagerly expected Chinese debate is reached a demand for the diversion of part of our troops to Manchuria will be made from the Conservative benches.

Notwithstanding the severity of his lesson last Friday, when the House of Commons inflicted one of the most humiliating rebuffs on its nominal leader of which there is a record, Mr. Balfour continues to treat Mr. Burdett Coutts and his sympathisers as public enemies. Apparently, however, he is taking pains to complete the personnel of the South Africa Hospitals' Commission in a satisfactory manner. The task, he informed the House of Commons the other night, was one not easy of negotiation nor capable of rapid achievement. Mr. Swift MacNeill tried to show that one of the members originally chosen had been selected on the recommendation of an eminent but notoriously biassed specialist who had previously been the guest of his nominee. With superb indignation—almost too superb, perhaps, for so puerile a provocation—Mr. Balfour described the question as one that ought not to have been put and which, if put, ought not to be answered. "I suppose that means an affirmative?" queried the imperturbable Irishman. The Conservative leader retorted that it simply meant that the question ought never to have been put. "That is my business, not yours," was Mr. MacNeill's rejoinder. It seems to be impossible for the House of Commons even to approach this painful subject without a display of temper.

Lords and Commons united in quite a little demonstration when the finishing touch was applied to the Australian Commonwealth Bill. "La reyne le veult," proclaimed the clerk, in token of her Majesty's assent to the passing of the Bill, and for once the old French phrase with its suggestion of a continuous retrospect, extending from the period of Mr. Edmund Barton of Victoria to that of William of Normandy, evoked an appreciative cheer. William of Normandy could scarcely have been more astonished at the spectacle than Mr. Barton of Victoria confessed himself to be. Those survivals of antiquity, indeed, though regarded with indifference by ourselves, never fail to excite the wonderment and interest of our visitors. But the Australian delegates are returning home with more substantial gifts than the memory of an antique ceremony. They have a new constitution in their pockets, signed by the Queen's own hand, and among their possessions are the pen with which the document was ratified and the table on which it rested while her Majesty appended her signature.

Twice within the last few days has the House of Lords made its voice heard on the side of an unpopular cause. On one of the two occasions the Peers actually inflicted defeat on the Government. More than a score of titled personages put themselves to the trouble and cost of crossing from Ireland in order to strike a blow for the privileges of an unconsidered minority. It was an agrarian movement from the top instead of from the bottom. The landowners of Ireland, groaning under the approximately equal burdens imposed upon them by the blind impartiality of Mr. Gladstone's land legislation, sought redress of their grievances, and found willing champions in the Irish nobility. The latter, to tell the truth, pleaded the

cause as if it were their own. That honest, stolid, downright man the Duke of Devonshire told them they were behaving very foolishly in asking for compensation in hard cash. "What you should do," he said, trying hard to look like a Machiavelli, "is to promote legislation like the Rating Relief Act or the Tithe-Rent Charge Bill. Those are measures from which you derive a direct benefit, and yet they can be commended not only as instruments of compensation but on grounds of public policy." Despite this sage advice the Irishmen forced a division, and defeated their false friends by a majority of three. Lord Londonderry, erstwhile the champion of oppressed landlordism and now the Postmaster-General, stayed away.

A day or two later there was a revolt of the English landlords. Every patriot agrees that Tommy Atkins should be exercised in field manœuvres to a degree undreamed of before the disillusions of the Boer war. When Lord Lansdowne introduced a Bill, the practical effect of which was to exempt the British army from the law of trespass, the measure was received with acclamation. A vague idea prevailed that its purpose was to give our gallant red-coats, in the pursuit of their calling, a right of access to poultry-yards and hay-fields. One fine morning Lord Lichfield awoke to the painful discovery that those privileged warriors might enter a game preserve—in fact, that they might enter his particular game preserve, a huge section of which had been scheduled in the Bill without his knowledge. The peers were horror-stricken. Even Lord Kimberley raised his voice against the outrage, while Lord Lansdowne, who as a rule is only too stubborn, spoke of this innovation in a tone of apology which their lordships were probably right in construing as an informal recantation of the more offensive clauses of the measure. And yet it is sometimes said that Lord Salisbury can do with the peers what he will!

Among the minor *personalia* of the week the strange case of Mr. J. L. Carew is not the least entertaining. Mr. Carew is the senior Secretary of the reunited Irish party, a determined Parnellite, and member for one of the divisions of Dublin. His colleagues could scarcely believe their eyes when among the list of presentations at the Duke of York's levée the other day they discovered the name of this hitherto blameless politician. Mr. Carew had actually gone to Court! Moreover, he had been introduced by one of the Ministerial Whips—the Hon. Ailwyn Fellowes, who holds the ornamental office of Vice-Chamberlain. Not since the days of Isaac Butt had there been such a bowing down in the house of Rimmon. On his re-appearance at Westminster Mr. Carew sat aloof from his scandalised compatriots, many of whom have made it a point of conscience never to attend a levée even of the Speaker. What Dublin will say to the culprit remains to be seen.

NOTES FROM BOMBAY.

THE FAMINE AND THE LAND REVENUE.

[From an Indian Correspondent.]

Bombay, June 22.

Great anxiety now prevails owing to the lateness of the monsoon in the Bombay Presidency. Bengal has had a good rainfall; so too have the southern parts of India. But in Bombay and the North-West Provinces and the Punjab people are in a state of feverish suspense. Well they may be, for it is awful to contemplate the disastrous consequences which may befall a great part of the country owing to a second season of drought. Let me hope that before this letter reaches you you may hear by cable of a satisfactory rainfall.

Our official meteorologist has elaborately attempted to demonstrate the close connexion between a year of low Nile in Egypt and a year of drought in India. On five different occasions during the last quarter of a century deficient rainfall, leading to scarcity or famine, has coincided with the fall of the Nile below her normal level. This physical phenomenon will now have to be more closely watched and studied from year to year, till perhaps in another twenty-five years our meteorologists are able to predict the monsoon in India with all the precision of the astronomers. There is a vast field for physicists interested in the problem of Indian, and for that matter Asiatic, meteorology; and it is to be hoped that for the welfare of Indian and Asiatic humanity, periodically stricken with famine, science may be able to assist us and, at any rate, keep us forewarned.

I have written enough in my previous letter on the present condition of the famine-stricken. But I may say that the subject of large remissions of revenue for the current year in this Presidency is occupying the attention of prominent publicists. It is satisfactory to note that there is absolute unanimity on this subject. But how far the Government of Lord Northcote will heed the public voice and remit the revenue is a question. The Provincial Government has been on its "beam ends" for the last five years, and its financial department is therefore very energetic in collections. So far as credible reports have come to my knowledge the authorities are still going on vigorously realising the dues for the year 1899-1900, which is a great hardship. These reports more or less confirm the statement of Mr. Vaughan Nash on the subject. It is time that the patient public now pronounced its opinion. In the last famine Sir Antony MacDonnell remitted sixty lakhs out of the total arrears of 170 lakhs. This was a most liberal remission, which policy and expediency demanded. But if such was the case in the North-West Provinces in 1898 what is there to prevent the Bombay Government from adopting this wise and liberal policy? This time the most lamentable feature to be witnessed in the Bombay Presidency is the appalling loss of cattle. It is no exaggeration to say that nearly seventy-five per cent. of the plough cattle are annihilated. This agricultural capital is now gone, and the cultivators have therefore lost their most valuable and productive asset, which it will not be possible for them to replace for some years to come. But beyond this pecuniary loss they are at their wits' end to eke out a bare subsistence. The *bania* will not advance any money for food grain. The Bombay Government has ordered *taccavi* advances to be made to the poorest rayats. But it is alleged that what the Government lends with the one hand it gets back with the other. The underlings of the revenue department, on whom depends the collection, are not an incorruptible set of men. It is their game to display their tax-gathering energy by recommending those only for *taccavi* advances who will pay the arrears of revenue from that money. When such miracles are achieved is it a wonder that the Bombay revenue authorities afterwards say with exultant pride that despite distress ar[illegible] want and woe they have been able to collect more than [illegible] their sanguine expectations warranted?

But even where *taccavi* advances are not interce[illegible] when the rayat is in a position to enjoy the full benefit, it is certain that any pressure on him to make him pay his arrears of rent when the harvest is reaped would be most perilous. It would never give him the chance of a fair start. As a result, he will be worse off, with infinitely less staying power, if any staying power is at all left to him. This is the danger to be avoided and it is here that the force of public opinion will have to be exerted continuously. It may be well for the Secretary of State to indulge in euphemistic terms, relying on optimistic reports of officials. The reality is something very different. It is to be hoped that English opinion will try to educate itself on this point and endeavour to have as accurate a knowledge as may be of the material condition of the Bombay rayat during the next four months. We require another Mr. Vaughan Nash to go about the various afflicted tracts and watch the agricultural operations on the one side, and the revenue-collecting operations of the tax-gatherer on the other. And he should further tell us how the luckless cultivator fares. He is between the devil and the deep sea. May Providence keep watch and ward over him and free him from his miseries. He has endured them with a patience which must extort the admiration of the world. In no other part of the civilised world could be witnessed such patience, such resignation to the inevitable, and such unmurmuring sufferings. It is only the docile Indian peasantry, with its extremely limited wants, that can bear them.

At yesterday's meeting of the Legislative Council at Simla the Punjab Land Alienation Bill was referred to a Select Committee, though a strong protest was made by the Hon. Sir Harnam Sinh to the effect that in view of the vital importance of the proposed legislation, and of the universal condemnation of it in the Punjab, the Government of India should not persist with it. At any rate, if it is determined to foist the Bill on an unwilling public it would be expedient to have it debated in the full meeting of the Council during the next cold weather at Calcutta. But the hon. member cried in the wilderness. The officials have set their hearts upon rushing the Bill through at Simla, where the powerful and searching criticism of the four able Indian popular representatives is avoided. This

incident shows how the Imperial Government still tries to override popular opinion when it does not suit its purpose to court it. It also demonstrates once more its general horror of outside non-official criticism of an independent character. The plea that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab could not go to Calcutta is moonshine. Nothing need prevent his going to Calcutta and assisting the Council. It is a matter of further regret that on this question Lord Curzon has shown less than his usual acumen and conciliatory spirit. If for naught else, then for the sake of healthy criticism alone he should have acceded to Sir Harnam Sinh's request and postponed the Bill till the reassembling of the Council at Calcutta. This subject is certain to give rise to the gravest dissatisfaction among the people of the Punjab.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

OVER SIX MILLIONS ON RELIEF.

APPALLING MORTALITY.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Viceroy:—

Rainfall has been fairly general during past week, in Bombay Deccan, Berar, and Khandesh, and Central Provinces, and Gangetic Plain, and Punjab, but rainfall much below average in these tracts, excepting Southern Deccan. Little or no rain has fallen in Rajputana and Gujerat and Central India. Agricultural operations seriously impeded everywhere except Burma, Mysore, Madras. Distress and famine expenditure prolonged beyond expectation. Outlook gloomy in Rajputana and Gujerat and Central India, where cattle, bought in anticipation of rains, are dying, and people much disheartened. Cholera mortality continues high in Bombay. Mortality there appalling.

Numbers of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, [illegible]; Punjab, 164,000; Central Provinces, 1,913,000; Berar, [illegible]5,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 151,000; Rajputana States, 523,000; Central India States, 165,000; Bombay Native States, 469,000; Baroda, 92,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 36,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 60,000; Hyderabad, 514,000; Madras, 15,000; Bengal, 12,000. Total, 6,013,000.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Governor of Bombay:—

Following are figures for week ended June 30:—Famine-stricken districts.—10,320 cases of cholera, of which 6,502 fatal. Native States: Cases of cholera 9,700; deaths from cholera, 5,931. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts, 5,324 or three-fourths per mille. Rains, moderate to slight, in Bombay Deccan, and Khandesh, have resulted in decrease in number on relief works. No rain worth mentioning has fallen in any of the districts of Gujerat, where distress is severe. Number on relief works increasing rapidly in consequence of drought; number on gratuitous relief increasing throughout affected districts.

THE MANSION HOUSE FUND.

The Mansion House Fund for the relief of the Indian famine sufferers amounted on Wednesday night to £321,700.

THE "INVESTORS' REVIEW" FUND.

We take the following from the current issue (July 7) of the *Investors' Review*:—

Subjoined is the list and amount of subscriptions received for our little fund up to date. May we again repeat that it is a fund, every farthing of which will be put to good uses, especially in helping the starved cultivators to replace their lost cattle, and that the more help we can give in this direction the sooner will the distressed provinces and Native States—for they cannot be forgotten in the present misery—recover some of their ancient prosperity? Cheques and postal orders should be drawn to A. J. Wilson, crossed Union Bank of London, Famine Fund Account.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Amount acknowledged last week	£682	15	0
R. C., Aberdeen	0	3	0
Croydon Women's Liberal Association (per INDIA)	5	5	6
Mrs. Geddes (second donation), Hayward's Heath	5	5	0
Mrs. Poste, Hayward's Heath	1	0	0
Messrs. E. Breffit & Co., Ltd., and workpeople, Castleford, second donation	11	10	0
Total to date	£705	18	6

Remittances should be made to Mr. A. J. Wilson, *Investors' Review* office, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

PROPOSED PARLIAMENTARY GRANT.

Commenting on the telegrams printed above, the *Morning Leader* (July 10) wrote: The obvious comment on this shocking condition of affairs is that no official optimism, however urgent, should be permitted any longer to prevent a grant from the British Parliament to the famine relief funds. Lord George Hamilton may repeat *ad nauseam* his formula about the resources of the Indian Government, which is another name for the Indian taxpayers. But what the public sees is that men and women are perishing by the thousand, that the hopes of the famine-stricken are baffled, and that the Viceroy is appealing, with but scant success, for the aid of the charitable public. The objections which have been officially taken to a Parliamentary grant are based on a wire-drawn distinction between the functions of private charity and the functions of the Indian Government in the work of relief. Well, if we must be pedantic, let Parliament refrain from voting the grant to the Indian Government as such. Let it vote the grant instead to the Indian people and let the money be sent to the Viceroy of India, just as the Mansion House Fund is periodically remitted to him, to be used in ways supplementary to the official plan of relief. The grant should be at least five millions sterling. Where is the member of the House of Commons who would oppose it?

In the course of a signed article which appeared in the *Morning Herald* of July 9, Professor A. F. Murison, LL.D., wrote:—

Lord George Hamilton, professedly jealous for Indian self-respect, insists that India shall pay her own way as long as she is able, and he affirms that her financial resources and credit are not by any means exhausted. Why, India, he told the House (June 19), "has in this country an untouched borrowing power of £9,000,000," and he "proposes to utilise a portion of this" during the current month of July. He has no alternative left, despite the era of "prosperity" and "elasticity," but to load the miserable country with a heavier burden of debt—"as if," says the *Investors' Review* with caustic justness, "borrowing was going to deliver India, as if borrowing had not been the curse of India, the readiness with which nine-and-thirty times nine millions have been raised and spent, not for India's benefit, but for ours." "Surely a monumental exhibition of folly," says our financial contemporary; for "it is not more debt that will deliver the Natives of India from the effects of famine, or put them in a position to resist the ravages of drought when next the heavens refuse their bounties; it is the reduction and removal of debt, not only on the part of the State, but on the part of individuals—the cultivators, on whom alone the prosperity of India rests." We fully agree—and it is for the public to realise the significance of the fact—that "Lord George Hamilton has not in the slightest degree begun to comprehend what this famine means for India." What the Government of India is going to do we learn from Lord Onslow: it is going to advance money to the extent of nearly a million and a quarter of tens of rupees (Rx. 1,225,000)—something over three-quarters of a million sterling (say £816,666)—to the helpless rayats. "Advance"—by way of loan, observe; not "give." Why, the miserable people will even have to pay interest, but not, "at any rate, for a year." Not a cheering glint of permanent relief!

Sir William Wedderburn (May 3) mooted the question of a free national contribution, not to the Indian Exchequer, but to the general charitable purposes, and he was strongly supported by Sir Henry Fowler, Mr. Maclean, and others on both sides of the House. There can be no question that such a contribution would be most popular throughout the country. If it amounted to £5,000,000—it could not in decency be less—it would still be short of half the unanticipated increase in last year's Imperial income. If it had been voted when the exceptional severity and extent of the calamity declared itself beyond a doubt, think how many lives it might have saved, how much misery it might have obviated, how much heart the very sympathy of it would have put into the distressed people, how deep the gratitude it would have evoked throughout the Dependency, and how completely it would have silenced the jibes and sneers of our Continental critics and justified our pride in India. Even yet it is not too late. But it is beyond hope, we fear, between Lord George Hamilton and Sir Michael

Hicks-Beach. Yet the contribution of five millions now would only too probably save fifty in the troublous future. For this is not the last of the Indian famines—or of their consequences.

THE NATIVE STOCKS OF FOOD.

The *Manchester Guardian* of July 6 published the following article from its special correspondent:—

In spite of the famine, there is grain enough and to spare in India. India has, in fact, contrived to feed herself through the whole famine period, that is to say since August or September, without any appreciable import of foodstuffs, and though the exports of wheat and rice have sunk enormously they have by no means ceased. This circumstance helps one to realise the extent of the food surplus in a normal year, and at the same time to appreciate the crudity of the doctrine that over-population is at the bottom of India's misery. The great province of Bengal, the province of Burma, and the greater part of the North-West Provinces had good or fair harvests last autumn and winter, and they have created the supply which the other provinces have drawn upon. The Bengal winter rice crop occupies 31½ million acres, the total cultivated area of all crops in Bengal being 57 million acres. The winter rice crop is therefore the most important crop in Bengal. In December and January last the yield of this crop was about 18 million tons of cleaned rice—a full average yield. The bulk of it is required to feed Bengal; but with an average yield there is a considerable surplus. Suppose this surplus to be a million tons, this means food for six million persons for six months—or, say, enough to feed the whole of the people who came upon relief in the famine districts. The actual surplus, I am told, is possibly more. In 1896-7, the late famine year, the Bengal rice crop failed over considerable areas and yielded only 7¾ or 8 million tons. There was, therefore, a great shortness in the supply required by the most densely peopled province of India. In both 1896-7 and 1899-1900 Burma has had great rice crops, and in each year a large surplus has been available for export to India or Europe. The surplus this year has been put as high as two million tons. Most of this goes, as usual, to Europe, but a good deal has found its way to Bombay. In 1896-7 the grain markets were very short, and the Government was anxious as to the sufficiency of food supplies. This year there has been no anxiety. The thickly populated rice-eating districts were known to be safe, and only the thinly populated western and central tracts were affected.

The reversal of ordinary trade conditions comes out in the reports of rail-borne traffic issued by the famine provinces. Thus in the quarter ending December the Central Provinces imports exceeded the exports by 649,000 maunds, and in place of 203,889 maunds of grain and pulse imported in the corresponding period of 1898, 2,271,644 maunds were imported. Instead of exporting half a million maunds of rice, as it did in 1898, the Provinces imported over a million and three-quarters, two-thirds of which came from Bengal and the rest from Burma. "The main feature of the quarter's trade," writes Mr. R. H. Craddock, Chief Secretary to the Government, "is that instead of parting with grain to buy commodities the people have been parting with commodities to buy grain." The export of goods classified as "all other articles of merchandise" rose from 283,344 to 564,442 maunds. The nature of these goods is, unfortunately, unknown. Turning to the North-West Provinces and Oudh, the drain created by the famine is shown by an increased export of more than four million maunds of wheat and other grains. Rajputana and Central India were the largest customers; the Punjab, Bombay, and the Central Provinces also imported freely. How is it that with a surplus in excess of all requirements the people of India have had to pay as much as twice the normal price for grain? It is difficult to get the data for answering the question, for the grain trade of India is numbered amongst the mysteries of this land of mystery. A high authority, in answer to the question whether the market is rigged, replies: "I do not think myself that prices are artificially made or kept up by a ring of grain dealers, and I think that they are natural prices. One reason for the sudden rise is that the agriculturists throughout India, when drought occurs in any part, become nervous and hang on to their grain, and have to be tempted by high prices. [Query: Does this apply to Bengal and Burma and the North-West Provinces?] Another is that in the famine tracts grain has to be brought from long distances, and carriage adds much to the price. There is such competition and keenness in the grain trade in India as to prevent the possibility of an organised corner." These opinions, whilst entitled to great respect, do not claim to be more than opinions. What follows is indubitable fact. "Inasmuch as our normal Indian prices are lower than those of Europe or America, no equalising import is possible until a higher level is reached. Consequently when we have a short harvest, and our producers become anxious to hold up, prices rise rapidly until the importing point is reached. There they stick, or do not pass it. For instance, 1,000 tons of wheat were imported from Australia the other day, and similar small imports from time to time occur whenever a sufficient margin temporarily is reached. But no large import is possible, for prices in India would soon fall below the importing point." It would seem, then, as if in times of scarcity the "natural price" is fixed by the price of imports, and that, whether by design or the common concentration of ten thousand scheming minds on the same point, the price of grain can be brought up to import level and there maintained. Certain it is that from the first suspicion of famine up to the present time a fine animation has characterised the market behind the scenes. Great plots, I am told, were laid in Calcutta in the early autumn, and it is matter of common complaint to this day that the ordinary person cannot get his telegram through for many hours because the wires are blocked with the bunya's grain messages. Still, there is nothing in this that may not be accounted for without going in search of conspiracies. That prices are too high, and that somebody is making a lot of money, is sufficiently clear. And the Oriental is a clever trader—very, very clever. My informant, however, continues: "It is a mistake to think that the grain dealers control the grain. I believe the bulk of the stocks of grain in the country at any point of time is in the hands of cultivators. The dealers buy to sell again, and they have to get their supplies out of the cultivator, and they have to offer him prices that will tempt him. Over and over again have cultivators and their landlords lost their market by refusing to sell in a bad year because they thought prices would go higher still." If this is so, then the rayat with a crop is exploiting the rayat without one, and the trader is really an agent rather than a principal. I should have thought myself that, what with his debts and the wholesale alienation of his lands, the rayats power to hold was less than my informant credits him with. But however this may be, the following extracts from a Bombay official paper shows that merchants are quite capable on occasion of doing their little share in the way of controlling the grain:—

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

There is a widespread belief among the people that the district contains sufficient grain to last for a couple of years, but the supply is held back by merchants, in the hope of high prices from March to May. There is no doubt that there are certain stocks in the district.

KAIRA DISTRICT.

As in Ahmedabad, people believe that large stocks of local produce have been held back in order to secure better prices in future.

BROACH DISTRICT.

Last year's harvests were good, and it is reported that the city of Broach contains large stocks of last year's food grains, and that dealers are unwilling to part with their stocks, in the hope of getting better prices.

SURAT DISTRICT.

Last year's harvests were very fair, and the district is believed to have large stocks of grain in merchants' godowns in the city of Surat. Though merchants are holding back their stocks in hopes of better prices and have slackened imports, prices show a tendency to fall.

An inconclusive note, I fear, on a deeply important subject. It may be my fault, but I have met no one in India who really knew the inner workings of the trade—or who, knowing them, would confide in me.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE LUCKNOW CONGRESS.

(*Concluded from page* 11.)

RESOLUTION X.

Resolved that this Congress adopts the following Rules regarding the constitution of the Congress:—

1. The object of the Indian National Congress shall be to promote by constitutional means the interests and the well-being of the people of the Indian Empire.

2. It shall ordinarily meet once a year at such time and in such place as shall have been resolved on by the last preceding Congress. Provided that the Indian Congress Committee, as hereinafter provided for, may in case of necessity, change the place or time of the meeting of the Congress; provided also that in case of emergency the Indian Congress Committee may convene an extraordinary session of the Congress at such time and place as may be determined by them.

3. It shall consist of delegates elected by political associations or other bodies and by public meetings.

4. Its affairs shall be managed by a Committee styled the Indian Congress Committee consisting of 45 members elected by the Congress, 40 of whom shall be elected upon the recommendations of the different Provincial Congress Committees, and, in the absence of such Committees, by the delegates of respective Provinces in Congress assembled, in the manner hereinbelow laid down, that is to say:—

For Bengal, including Assam	8
For Bombay, including Sind	8
For Madras, including Secunderabad	8
For North-Western Provinces, including Oudh	6
For Punjab	4
For Berar	3
For Central Provinces	3

The term of office of the members of the Committee shall be the period intervening between two ordinary meetings of the Congress.

5. The Indian Congress Committee shall meet at least three times a year, once immediately after the Congress, once during the year between the months of June and October as may be determined upon by the Committee, and once immediately before the Congress, at such place as the Committee may find convenient.

6. The Indian Congress Committee shall have an Honorary Secretary and a paid Assistant-Secretary, with suitable office staff, for which a sum of Rs. 5,000 shall be granted annually, one-half of which shall be provided by the Reception Committee of the place where the last Congress is held, and the other half by the Reception Committee of the place where the next succeeding Congress is to be held.

The Secretary to the Indian National Congress shall be the Honorary Secretary of the Committee.

7. Provincial Congress Committees shall be organised at the capitals of the different Presidencies and Provinces of India for the purpose of carrying on the work of political education, on

lines of general appreciation of British rule and of constitutional action for the removal of its defects, throughout the year, by organising Standing Congress Committees, holding Provincial Conferences, and by such other means as they may deem proper, in consultation with the Indian Congress Committee, for furthering the objects of the Congress. They shall be the responsible agents of the Indian Congress Committee for their respective Provinces, and shall submit annual reports of their work to that Committee.

8. The nomination of the President, the drafting of Resolutions, and all other business in connection with the Congress, shall be done by the Indian Congress Committee. It shall also, subject to the approval of the Congress, frame rules for the election of delegates, the election of speakers, and the conduct of the proceedings of the Congress.

9. Rules and bye-laws shall be framed by the Provincial Congress Committees for the election of members, the conduct of their own proceedings, and other matters appertaining to their business. All such rules and bye-laws shall be subject to the approval of the Indian Congress Committee.

10. A committee styled the British Congress Committee shall be maintained in England, which shall represent there the interests of the Indian National Congress. The amount requisite for the expenses of the said Committee shall be determined and voted by the Congress, and the amount so voted shall be raised by the Indian Congress Committee in such manner as may be determined upon by that body from time to time.

11. The Indian Congress Committee shall take such steps as they may deem fit to raise a permanent fund for carrying on the work of the Indian National Congress; and such fund shall be invested in the name of seven trustees, one from each Province in India, to be appointed by the Congress.

Members of the Indian Congress Committee Appointed by the Congress under the above Resolution.

General Members.—Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Hon. Surendra Nath Banerjee, Hon. P. Ananda Charlu, Hon. P. M. Mehta, Mr. Madhulkar.

Bengal.—Mr. A. M. Bose, Mr. Kali Charan Banerjee, Mr. Bhupendra Nath Bose, Hon. Baikunt Nath Sen, Mr. Ambica Charan Mozumdar, Mr. J. Ghosal, Mr. Aswini Kumar Dutt, Mr. Dipnarain Sinha.

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.—Hon. Pandit Bishambbar Nath, Babu Ganga Prasad Varma, Pandit Madan Mohan Malavya, Mr. A. Nundy, Mr. Bishwa Narain Dhar, Mr. Hafiz Abdur Raheem.

Bombay.—Mr. D. E. Wacha, Hon. G. Chandra Varkar, Mr. W. A. Chambers, Mr. R. M. Sayani, Mr. Daji Abaji Khare, Mr. Chiman H. Sitalwad, Mr. R. P. Karandikar, Mr. Tahilram Khem Chand.

Punjab.—Lala Kanihia Lal, Sirdar Jhenda Singh, Lala Hur Kissen Lal, Mr. Jaishiram.

Central Provinces.—Mr. Bapurao Dada, Mr. Bhagirath Prasad, Mr. H. V. Kelker.

Berar.—Mr. Deorao Vinayek, Mr. M. V. Joshi, Mr. G. S. Khaparde.

Madras.—Hon. C. Vijia Ragavachary, Hon. C. Jambulinga Mudaliar, Hon. G. Venkataratnam, Mr. C. Sankara Nair, Mr. P. Rangia Naidu, Mr. P. Ram Chandra Pillai, Mr. G. Subramania Iyer, Mr. V. Ryru Nambyar.

Resolution XI.

Resolved that this Congress recognises the valuable services of the British Committee in the cause of the people of India, and expresses its unabated confidence in Sir William Wedderburn and the other members of the Committee.

And that a sum of Rs. 54,000 to be assigned for the expenses of the British Committee and the cost of the Congress publication, India.

Resolution XII.

Resolved that, having regard to the policy of appointing to the Governorships of Madras and Bombay statesmen from England to the exclusion of the services in India, this Congress is of opinion that it is desirable that those Provinces should be administered with the help of Councils of three and not of two members as at present, and that one of the three Councillors should be a Native of India.

Resolution XIII.

Resolved that this Congress, while gratefully recognising the endeavours made by the Indian and Provincial Governments to save human life and relieve distress at the present famine, urges the adoption of the true remedy—to improve the condition of the cultivating classes and prevent the occurrence of famine. This Congress recommends the curtailment of public expenditure, the development of local and indigenous industries, and the moderating of land assessment.

Resolution XIV.

Resolved (i) that this Congress concurs with previous Congresses in strongly advocating—

(*a*) A modification of the rules under the Arms Act so as to make them equally applicable to all residents in, or visitors to, India, without distinction of creed, caste or colour; to ensure the liberal concession of licenses wherever wild animals habitually destroy human life, cattle or crops; and to make all licenses granted under the revised rules life-long tenure revocable only on proof of misuse, and valid throughout the Provincial jurisdiction in which they are issued.

(*b*) The establishment of Military Colleges in India, at which Natives of India, as defined by Statute, may be educated and trained for a military career as Commissioned or Non-commissioned officers, according to capacity and qualifications, in the Indian Army.

(*c*) The authorising and stimulating of a widespread system of volunteering, such as obtains in Great Britain, amongst the people of India.

(*d*) The discontinuance of the grant of exchange compensation allowance to the non-domiciled European and Eurasian employees of Government.

(*e*) The establishment of a High Court of Judicature in the Punjab.

(ii) That this Congress, concurring with previous Congresses, records its protest—

(*a*) Against the scheme of re-organisation of the Educational Service which has received the sanction of the Secretary of State, as being calculated to exclude natives of India, including those who have been educated in England, from the superior grade of the Educational Service to which they have hitherto been admitted, advocating that the scheme may be so recast as to afford facilities for the admission of Indian graduates to the superior grade of the Educational Service.

(*b*) Against the present rate of the Salt Tax, which produces great hardship to the poorest classes of the country, a hardship which renders it incumbent upon the Government to take the earliest opportunity to restore the duty to its level of 1888.

(*c*) Against the retrograde policy of the Government of India in nominating a gentleman for the Central Provinces to the Supreme Council without asking local bodies to make recommendations for such nomination, entertaining the earnest hope that the Government will be pleased to take early steps to give to the Central Provinces the same kind of representation that it has already granted to Bengal, Madras, Bombay, and the North-Western Provinces.

(*d*) Against the labour laws of Assam, *viz.*, the Inland Emigration Act I of 1882, as amended by Act VII of 1893.

(iii) This Congress concurring with previous Congresses expresses its conviction—

(*a*) That having regard to the opinion of the Jury Commission as to the success of the system of trial by jury, and also the fact that with the progress of education a sufficient number of educated persons is available in all parts of the country, the system of trial by jury should be extended to districts and offences to which at present it does not apply, and that the verdicts of juries should be final.

(*b*) That this congress is of opinion that it is desirable in the interests of the people of this country that the Criminal Procedure Code should be so amended as to confer upon accused persons, who are natives of India, the right of claiming, in trials by jury before the High Court, and in trials with the aid of assessors, that not less than half the number of the jurors or of the assessors shall be natives of India.

(*c*) That the action of the Forest Department, under the rules framed by the different Provincial Governments, prejudicially affects the inhabitants of the rural parts of the country by subjecting them to the annoyance and oppression of Forest subordinates in various ways; and these rules should be amended in the interest of the people.

(*d*) That the minimum income accessable under the Income Tax Act be raised from five hundred to one thousand rupees.

(*e*) That no satisfactory solution of the question of the employment of natives of India in the Indian Civil Services is possible, unless effect is given to the resolution of the House of Commons of June 1893 in favour of holding the competitive examination for the Indian Civil Service simultaneously in India and England.

Resolution XV.

Resolved that this Congress is of opinion that the Government of India Notification of June 25, 1891, in the Foreign Department, gagging the Press in territories under British administration in Native States, is retrograde, arbitrary and mischievous in its nature, and opposed to sound statesmanship and to the liberty of the people, and ought to be cancelled.

Resolution XVI.

Resolved that this Congress places on record its conviction that the system of technical education now in vogue is inadequate and unsatisfactory, and prays that, having regard to the poverty of the people and the decline of indigenous industries, the Government will introduce a more elaborate and efficient scheme of technical instruction, and set apart more funds for a successful working of the same. And this Congress desires to express its grateful appreciation of the patriotic and munificent gift of Mr. Tata for the promotion of higher scientific education and research.

Resolution XVII.

Resolved that this Congress, while thanking the Government for granting the boon of a Legislative Council to the Punjab, places on record its regret that they have not extended to the Councillors the right of interpellation, and to the people the right of recommending Councillors for nomination, such as are enjoyed by the Councillors and the people in the other Provinces.

RESOLUTION XVIII.

Resolved that this Congress is of opinion that so long as Berar is administered by the Governor-General in Council, all laws and orders having the force of law, intended for Berar, should be enacted by the Supreme Legislative Council in the same way as those for British India proper.

RESOLUTION XIX.

Resolved that the adoption of measures against the Plague being a matter of imperial concern and recognised as such, this Congress is of opinion that the expenditure incurred in connexion therewith should be borne by the Government and not charged to the funds of the local bodies.

RESOLUTION XX.

Resolved that this Congress expresses its full and unabated confidence in Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji as the representative of the people of India, and hopes that he will be re-elected by his old constituency of Central Finsbury or any other Liberal constituency.

RESOLUTION XXI.

Resolved that this Congress reappoints Mr. A. O. Hume, C.B., to be General Secretary, and Mr. D. E. Wacha to be Joint General Secretary for the ensuing year.

RESOLUTION XXII.

Resolved that an agency be appointed in England for the purpose of organising, in concert with the British Congress Committee, public meetings for the dissemination of information on Indian matters, and that funds be raised for the purpose.

ROMESH C. DUTT,
President 15th Indian National Congress.

Lucknow,
December 31, 1899.

Imperial Parliament.

Thursday, July 5.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he could give any particulars, as to the different provinces, regarding the return of the cultivators from the famine camps to their villages, to cultivate their fields on account of the rain which has fallen:

And, whether he would state the measures which were being taken to feed them in their villages until their crops were ripe.

Lord G. HAMILTON said that, in accordance with the instructions of the Famine Code and with the advice of the Famine Commission, the large relief works were being gradually closed as the rainy season advanced, and as inducements in the shape of home relief drew the people back to their villages arrangements were being made for relieving the destitute at their homes and for giving them employment at or near their villages. He had recently received the following information from the Government of India on this subject:—"Our relief measures have already far exceeded Code prescriptions, which are elastic, not rigid, and have been adapted by us to differing local requirements to entire satisfaction of local governments concerned. Thus, in Central Provinces a multitude of kitchens still feed all comers during the rains. Aged and infirm relieved at home. Able-bodied labourers given local employment by headmen at cost of State wherever private demand for field labour slack. Sixy lakhs land revenue suspended out of the eighty-six demanded. This sum, with twenty-seven lakhs special advances and thirty lakhs charitable relief, will, in Chief Commissioner's opinion, secure active agriculture during the rains. Similar relief during rains adopted elsewhere. Bombay Government are extending kitchens and gratuitous lists and granting rayats advances for subsistence selves and labourers till next crop. They estimate twenty-five lakhs for this, besides over sixty lakhs for seed and cattle. In Punjab small farmers and labourers will receive subsistence."

A COURT-MARTIAL AT FIROZPUR.

Mr. DRAGE asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had yet heard from the Government of India why, in the report of the finding and sentence of a court-martial at Firozpur on a conductor charged with taking bribes from a contractor, blanks appeared in the Punjab command orders; and, whether he could now give the required information as to who offered the bribe, on behalf of what firm the bribe was offered, what the stores were, and at whose instance the facts were suppressed.

Lord G. HAMILTON: I am informed by the Government of India, that the names were omitted by the Punjab military authorities from the report to which my hon. friend refers in consequence of a mistaken notion as to the legal liabilities which might be incurred by their publication. The goods in question were shipped by the Indian Brush Factory, and were up to standard. They were rejected because the travelling agent who acted on their behalf offered a bribe to secure their passing. His name is Gordon.

THE LONDON INDIAN SOCIETY'S MEMORIAL.

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Prime Minister had received a memorial from the London Indian Society, praying for an Imperial grant in aid of the Indian famine; and, if so, whether he would state what reply had been given.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that such a memorial has been received by the Prime Minister.

Friday, July 6.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULAR RAILWAY COMPANY BILL.

Sir LEWIS M'IVER reported from the Committee on Group No. 8 of Private Bills: That in the case of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company Bill they had agreed to the following Report:—

That the Bill does not authorise the construction of any new works.

That the object of the Bill is to vest the railways and other property of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company in the Secretary of State in Council of India and to provide for the payment of annuities to the holders of stock in the said Company.

That pursuant to the Instruction of the House of June 21 last, the Committee had made provision in the Bill authorising the creation of annuities to be charged on and payable out of the revenues of India in lieu of the sum of money amounting to £34,859,217 17s. 6d. agreed upon for the purchase by the Secretary of State in Council of India of the undertaking of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company, and the payment of any costs and expenses incurred by the said Secretary of State under any Act of the present Session for vesting the said undertaking in the said Secretary of State in Council of India, and also any costs, charges, and expenses of obtaining and passing the said Act not provided by the surplus profits arising from the said undertaking for the half-year ending June 30, 1900.

That there are no other circumstances of which, in the opinion of the Committee, it is desirable that the House should be informed.

Sir LEWIS M'IVER further reported from the Committee: That they had examined the allegations of the Bill and found the same to be true, and had gone through the Bill and made Amendments thereunto.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following Notices of Motion appear on the Order Paper of the House of Commons:—

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN,—East India (Famine),—That, looking to the special needs of the famine-stricken people in India on the approach of the monsoon, this House recognises that funds are urgently required to feed, clothe, and house the cultivators in their villages until their crops are ripe; to provide them with plough cattle, seed, and other requisites of cultivation; and to restore them to their normal economic condition; that these requirements cannot be adequately met from Indian revenues raised from the suffering Indian people, and within the necessarily restricted field of ordinary relief operations; that the funds subscribed by charity are altogether insufficient for these purposes: and this House is therefore of opinion that an Imperial free grant of not less than five millions sterling should be provided to assist in meeting this unprecedented calamity. [An early day.]

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS,—Distress in India,—That, in view of the frequent and widespread famines which have occurred in India in recent years, it is desirable, in the opinion of this House, to afford some permanent relief and protection to the people in the future; firstly, by a more rapid extension of irrigation canals, storage tanks, and wells; secondly, by reducing the land tax in those provinces or districts where it is excessive; and thirdly, by relieving India of a portion of the cost of the Indian army, which should equitably be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. [An early day.]

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON INDIAN QUESTIONS.

At the annual meeting of the "Bond of Union among Workers for the Common Good," held at 74, Addison Road, Kensington, on July 2, Mrs. Bradlaugh Bonner gave an address upon the Indian Famine. In spite of the stormy weather there was a good and appreciative gathering of ladies, who were evidently impressed by Mrs. Bonner's remarks. The sum of £12 was collected and handed to Mrs. Bonner, who has transmitted it to Mr. P. M. Mehta for proper distribution.

On July 9, Miss Alison Garland gave an address on "The Famine in India" at the Rock Chapel, Yelverton. The Rev. J. T. Batt presided. It was decided to take a collection at one of the Sunday services for the Famine Fund.

On June 28, Miss Bragg gave a garden party at Weston Lodge, Mannawead to the members of the Plymouth Women's Liberal Association. There was a large gathering on the lawn and after tea the members assembled to hear one or two short speeches, after which Miss Alison Garland gave an address on the famine in India—urged the holding of a town's meeting and the opening of a Mayor's fund at Plymouth.

On July 5, Miss Garland also spoke on this subject to the Devon Union of Women's Liberal Associations, who held their annual picnic at Pitt House, Chudleigh, the residence of the Right Hon. C. Seale-Hayne, M.P. There were about 600 guests from all parts of Devonshire, many of whom went home with a determination to get up a town's meeting or a systematic collection for the Famine Fund.

Miss Garland will address further meetings on the Indian famine as follows:—

July 16. Paddington Women's Liberal Association.
,, 19. Town's Meeting, Bradford.

NOW READY.

CONGRESS GREEN BOOK.—No. III.

The Proposed Separation OF Judicial and Executive Duties in India.

MEMORIAL

FROM

Rt. Hon. Lord HOBHOUSE, K.C.S.I.
(late Legal Member of the Viceroy's Council, Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council).

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD GARTH, Q.C.
(late Chief Justice of Bengal).

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD COUCH
(late Chief Justice of Bengal, Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council).

Sir CHARLES SARGENT
(late Chief Justice of Bombay.)

Sir WILLIAM MARKBY, K.C.I.E.
(late Judge of the High Court, Calcutta).

Sir JOHN BUDD PHEAR
(late Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, and Chief Justice of Ceylon).

Sir JOHN SCOTT, K.C.M.G.
(late Judge of the High Court, Bombay).

Sir W. WEDDERBURN, Bart., M.P.
(late Judge of the High Court, Bombay

Sir ROLAND K. WILSON, Bart.
(late Reader in Indian Law at the University of Cambridge).

Mr. HERBERT J. REYNOLDS, C.S.I.
(late Member of the Bengal Legislative Council).

TOGETHER WITH TWO APPENDICES.

London: Published by THE BRITISH COMMITTEE of the INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS,
84 & 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

Price One Shilling (or 12 annas), postage 2d. extra.

LONDON INDIAN SOCIETY.

DADABHAI NAOROJI, Esq., President.

Above Society on receipt of 5 anna stamps will give information regarding course of study and cost of living in England. Gentlemen will be met at London, Edinburgh, Oxford, or Cambridge stations on giving fortnight's notice.

Apply, Dr. MULLICK,

Soho Square, National Hospital, London, N.W.

To Political Associations, Literary Societies, Ethical Societies,

Etc., etc.

LECTURES and ADDRESSES ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The British Committee of the Indian National Congress (84 & 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W.), is now making arrangements for lectures and addresses on Indian questions.

Associations or individuals that desire the services of thoroughly competent speakers on Indian questions are requested to communicate as early as may be with the Secretary to the British Committee at the above address. The services of a recent visitor to the Famine districts are available.

For a limited number of lectures lantern slides can be provided.

No charge will be made for the services of speakers with whom engagements are made through the British Committee.

Address, THE SECRETARY,
BRITISH COMMITTEE of the
INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS,
84 & 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

DR. T. N. GHOSE'S

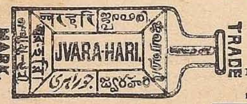
PECTORAL BALSAM.

A BOON TO SUFFERERS FROM ALL DISORDERS AND COMPLAINTS OF THE LUNGS AND CHEST.

For Cold in the Head, Coughs, Hoarseness, Asthma, Hooping Cough, Bronchitis, Sore Throat.

Dr. W. VENOR says: "I have used it myself and prescribed it for many patients, and can very strongly recommend it for Bronchitis, Asthma, Indigestion. It will not cure Asthma or Indigestion, but a single dose I have found gives an immediate relief.—31st March, 1889.

P. C. GHOSE & CO., New Medical Hall, Meerut.



is what its name implies **FEVER DESTROYER,**

and Cures Malarious, Intermittent and Remittent types of Fevers, Colds, etc.

North Raglan Barracks, Devonport.
I beg to enclose a cheque for the "Jvara-Hari." Both in India and Africa I have found it the BEST REMEDY FOR FEVER I know
C. E. Wood, Capt. 22nd North Staffs. Regt.

"Jvara-Hari" is so efficacious on all fevers, that I now indent upon you for 4 dozen, per value payable parcel. I think there more than magic in it.
G. L. Narsinga Row.

For INDIGESTION, DIARRHŒA, CHOLERA, etc., etc.

Cuddalore Municipal Councillors' Office.—"I ave much pleasure in stating that your "Omum-Carpoor" was found very useful for Cholera if taken in the early stage,
C. S. Srinivasa, Chairman.

Omum-Carpoor
TRADE MARK

Prices of "JVARA-HARI" and "OMUM-CARPOOR" 8 ans., Rs., 1/8 Rs., 2/12 Rs., and 11 Rs. per bottle. N.B.—1 doz. sent post free. To be had of all Chemists and Dealers, or of the Proprietors,

HENRY'S GREAT INDIAN REMEDIES COMPANY, 43, King William St., London, E.C., and 27, Second Line Beach, Madras.

JUST OUT. THE *HIGHLY SPOKEN OF.*

COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL DIGEST, 1862-1899.

By CHUNILAL HARILAL VAKIL, B.A., LL.B.,
Subordinate Judge, Dholka; First Class Magistrate, Ahmedabad.

This Digest contains all the criminal cases decided by the four High Courts and the unchartered High Courts in the Punjab, Oudh, Central Provinces, and Burma, reported in the four series of the Indian Law Reports, Bengal Law Reports, Madras H. C. Reports, Bombay H. C. Reports, N.W.P. High Court Reports, Calcutta Law Reports, Indian Jurist, Weekly Reporter, Haye's Reports, Hyde's Reports, Marshall's Reports, Coryton's Reports, Agra H. C. Reports, Moore's Indian Appeals, Criminal Rulings of the Bombay High Court, Calcutta Weekly Notes, Bombay Law Reporter, Joy Govind Shome's Reports, Bourke's Reports, Burma Select Judgments, Punjab Records, Central Provinces Reports, and Oudh Select cases, together with important cases from 1802 to 1862 decided by the Sudder Fouzdaree Adawlut and Nizamut Adawlut. It contains rulings from more than 300 volumes, while the greatest existing digest contains rulings from about 150 volumes only. It contains a complete index of all cases followed, overruled, or otherwise judicially noticed in these reports.

Price Rs. 17. Apply to The Compiler, DHOLKA.

The annual subscription to INDIA (post free) is nine shillings for England and six rupees for India. Subscriptions are payable in advance. Remittances, or communications relating to subscriptions or any other matter of business connected with INDIA, should in all cases be sent to the Manager *of INDIA, 84 and 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W. In any communication regarding copies of INDIA circulated in India, it is requested that Subscribers be referred to both by name and by the number printed in each case upon the addressed wrapper.*

Cheques and Post Office Orders payable to W. Douglas Hall.

Copies of INDIA can be obtained from the Offices of the Paper; from Mr. Elliot Stock, *Paternoster Row, London, E.C.; and to order at any Railway Bookstall.*

Printed by A. Bonner, 1 & 2, Took's Court, London, E.C., and Published for the Proprietors at 84 and 85, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W.